



Proposed Patient Care Area Guidelines

Council has approved, **in principle**, the recommendation to mandate a Patient Care Area in a pharmacy. Additionally, Council has approved in principle the need for a sink in the private services area, along with all other requirements). While it is **not mandatory at this time**, the intent is that we are moving to this and you may wish to incorporate a **sink** into your private services area now.

The focus is largely upon the private aspect of the room. As we enhance our prescriptive authority and minor ailment prescribing authority, the need for a private area to conduct interviews and assessments is required. Development of necessary Regulatory Bylaw amendments will begin with notice given to applicants for new pharmacy permits as well as renovations and relocation applications so that planning for this requirement can begin.

PROPOSED Standards for Compliance

There must be a room designated as the Patient Care Area within the pharmacy Professional Services Area (PSA), to be utilized only for the delivery of pharmacy services.

1. The Patient Care Area shall:
 - a) ensure acoustical and visual privacy of the patient;
 - b) include a sign or other appropriate indicator to specify when the room is in use, to prevent inappropriate entry;
 - c) be adjacent to or attached to the pharmacy, and be within visual control of the dispensary;
 - d) be comfortably furnished to seat three people;
 - e) be wheelchair accessible and have sufficient room to maneuver a wheelchair;
 - f) to meet optimal hygiene standards, have an operating sink with hot and cold running water and sewage disposal, both of which comply with local building codes;
 - g) be equipped with a computer terminal, and
 - h) not be used to store or display anything other than what is required for the education session or the administration of drugs.
2. All newly constructed pharmacies and renovated pharmacies that involve the relocation of the dispensary must have a Patient Care Area, and
3. All existing pharmacies must meet the requirements for the Patient Care Area within three years after this bylaw has come into effect.